allocated to States under Swajaldhara in accordance with the ARWSP inter State allocation formula.

(c) and (d) As per Swajaldhara Guidelines, the community contribution towards capital cost of Swajaldhara schemes could be in the form of cash/ kind/labour/land or combination of these, with at least 50% of the community contribution being in cash. In the case of Scheduled Tribes areas, the proportion of cash contribution has now been reduced to 25% of the stipulated community contribution.

Role of handicrafts in rural development

†1672. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any study on the role of handicrafts in rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of efforts being made by Government for balanced development of handicrafts etc. in rural areas;

(d) whether any proposal sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding the same is lying pending with the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) No such study on the role of handicrafts in rural development has been conducted by the Ministry.

(c) Besides participation in IITF SARAS fair, regional SARAS fairs are being organized by the Ministry from the year 2003-04 on wards in different States of the country to give a platform to market the products made by the rural artisans of all States.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is pending with the Ministry.

Food for work scheme

†1673. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in which 'Food for Work' scheme is in force and the number of persons who get employment under this scheme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the quantum of foodgrains and the funds provided by the Government under this scheme; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to implement this scheme in all districts, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) A new poverty alleviation programme, National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has been launched from the month of November 2004 in 150 most backward Districts of the country to generate additional supplementary wage employment with food security. All the 27 States except Goa have been covered under the programme. The performance reports from the States are expected by next months.

(b) For the current year 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 2020 crore as cash component and 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated Against the allocation, an amount of Rs. 1951.66 crore has been released as initial instalment of the Cash Component besides entire allocated quantity of 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to all the selected districts.

(c) The programme is an interim measure before the launch of Employment Guarantee. 150 most backward districts have been identified and the programme has already been launched in these districts. There is no proposal for coverage of additional districts at this stage.

Proposal for development of rural areas in Madhya Pradesh

†1674. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Government under the Central scheme regarding rural regions;

(b) the action being taken by Government on the proposals; and

(c) by when the approval would be accorded to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The projects are sanctioned under various Rural Development Programmes namely, Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Swajaldhara and Total

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.